

STRANGE TALES

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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STRANGE TALES™ FEATURING:

# WARLOCK™



JUDGMENT DAY!

Born to be Earth's man of the future, then forced to abandon his native planet because of his alien ways, he wanders the stars seeking LIFE! Gifted with ultra-strength, paranormal reflexes and perceptions, the power of levitation and the curse of a vampire soul-gem, he stands uniquely ALONE among the heavens.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE POWER OF WARLOCK!**

STORY - SAM JILTIEN  
LETTERS - T. P. ORZECOWSKI

ART - JIM STARLIN  
COLORS - MS. NATJIRIL

INKS - J. L. MINIRATS  
EDITOR - LEN WEIN

# The JUDGMENT!

**HOMEWORLD:** LOCATED LIGHT-YEARS FROM EARTH IN THE CONSTELLATION HERCULES; HOMEWORLD: THE BIRTHPLACE AND CONTROL CENTER OF THE GALACTIC UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF TRUTH, CONQUEROR OF A THOUSAND WORLDS!

**HOMEWORLD:** WHERE WE FIND ADAM WARLOCK, DESTROYER OF FALSE GODS, SEEKING HIS BLOOD ENEMY-- THE ALL-POWERFUL MAGUS!

**HOMEWORLD:** A HARD PLANET-- AND AN EVEN HARDER PLACE TO REACH! IT'S BEEN A LONG AND DANGEROUS JOURNEY!



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FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, THE VOYAGE TO THIS CROSSROADS IN SPACE HAS BEEN LIBERALLY SPICED WITH VIOLENCE AND DEATH!

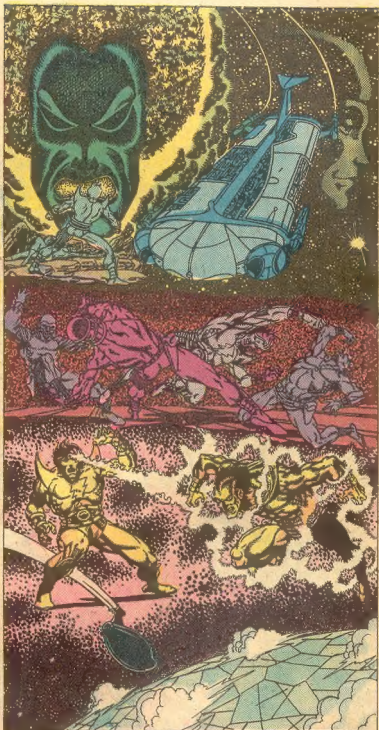
IT BEGAN WITH THE LOSS OF A YOUNG GIRL'S LIFE! SHE HAD COME TO WARN WARLOCK OF THE MAGUS, THE DEADLY GOD WORSHIPPED BY THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF TRUTH! ADAM WAS SOON TO LEARN THAT THIS FALSE DEITY WAS AND IS HIS OWN OTHER SELF, THOUGH HOW THIS CAN BE REMAINS A MYSTERY!

SETTING OUT TO ONCE AGAIN CONFRONT THIS DISINGENUOUS DIVINITY, WARLOCK SOON FOUND HIMSELF CAPTIVE ABOARD ONE OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH'S STARSHIPS, CONDEMNED TO DEATH BY THE MATRIARCH, THE RELIGION'S TEMPORAL LEADER!

THOUGH EASILY OVERCOMING THE SHIP'S CREW, ADAM NARROWLY AVOIDED DEATH AT THE HANDS OF AUTOLYCUS, THE STARSHIP'S CAPTAIN AND BLACK KNIGHT OF THE CHURCH! ONLY THE FACT THAT WARLOCK'S MYSTERIOUS SOUL GEM MOMENTARILY SPRANG TO INDEPENDENT LIFE AND STOLE THE CAPTAIN'S SOUL, SAVED THE ASTRAL AVENGER FROM CERTAIN DOOM!

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS RESCUE NEARLY LOST ADAM WARLOCK MORE THAN IT GAINED, FOR HE NOW MUST CARRY WITHIN HIMSELF THE MEMORY AND VERY SOUL OF HIS JEWEL'S VICTIM!

BUT FINALLY A SHIP'S SHUTTLE CRAFT WAS COMMANDEERED, AND SLIGHT ALTERATIONS WERE MADE ON ADAM'S COSTUME FOR SAKE OF ANONYMITY, AND THE LAST LEG OF THE JOURNEY HAS BEEN MADE IN THE COMPANY OF ONE PIP THE TROLL, A NEW-FOUND ALLY OF SORTS!



SO, NOW WHAT?

HERE I SIT UPON A HOSTILE WORLD, ALLIED WITH ONLY A VAMPIRE GEM AND A SLIGHTLY DEPRAVED TROLL!



STILL, PIP SEEMS TO KNOW HIS WAY AROUND THIS WORLD BETTER THAN THE MEMORIES I STOLE FROM THE LATE AUTOLYCUS! POOR DEVIL!

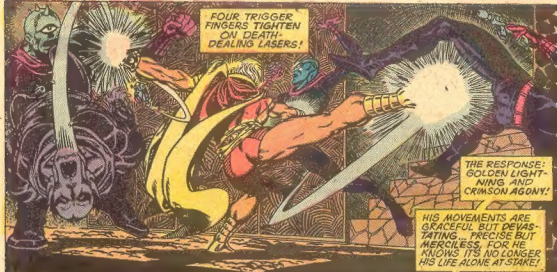
BEST NOT TO DWELL ON THE GRISLY AFFAIR JUST YET! IT'S STILL TOO EARLY... TOO FRESH FOR MY SANITY TO ACCEPT...

...AND I'VE ALREADY ENOUGH DARK THOUGHTS TO DWELL UPON THIS DAY...

...SINCE I'VE COME TO THIS WORLD TO KILL A GOD!







FOUR TRIGGER  
FINGERS TIGHTEN  
ON DEATH-  
DEALING LASERS!

THE RESPONSE:  
GOLDEN LIGHT-  
NING AND  
CRIMSON AGONY!

HIS MOVEMENTS ARE  
GRACEFUL, BUT DEWAS-  
TATING... PRECISE BUT  
MERCELESS. FOR HE  
KNOWS IT'S NO LONGER  
HIS LIFE ALONE AT STAKE!



'ATTA-  
BOY,  
DARK  
EYES!

HE BATTLES FOR THE  
FREEDOM OF A  
THOUSAND WORLDS!  
FOR SUCH STAKES  
ONE MUST BE  
UNSPARING!

THE MASSACRE  
IS OVER  
BEFORE IT HAS  
REALLY BEGUN!

PASTE  
HIM ONE  
FOR ME!



BOY, THEY SURE DON'T  
BUILD RELIGIOUS FANATICS  
LIKE THEY USED TO!

PIP... PLEASE  
SHUT UP!

IT'S THE... SOUL GEM...  
IT FIGHTS ME... IT'S TRY-  
ING TO... BREAK FREE...  
FROM MY CONTROL... AGAIN!



I CAN FEEL IT... IT WANTS TO  
SUCK IN... THE SOULS... OF  
THESE FALLEN KNIGHTS...

JUST LIKE IT DID... TO  
AUTOLYCUS... I CAN'T ALLOW  
THIS... TO HAPPEN...

...NOT  
AGAIN!



I DID IT!

I'VE GOT IT  
UNDER CONTROL  
AGAIN!

BUT IT WAS  
SO... SO HARD!



I FEARED IT  
MIGHT COME  
TO THIS!

THE SOUL GEM IS STEADILY  
GROWING STRONGER AND  
SHEDDING THE SUBCONSCIOUS  
CONTROL I'VE HAD OVER IT  
THE LAST THREE YEARS!

IT SEEMS TO BE  
FREE TO SATISFY  
ITS UNHOLY HUNGER  
FOR FRESH SOULS  
TO SUCK THEM OUT  
OF LIVING BEINGS!

I WEAR A FIEND UPON  
MY FOREHEAD... A MONSTER  
I NOW REALIZE...

...I MUST  
**DESTROY!**

TIME AND SPACE  
SHIFT! SHORT  
MINUTES LATER,  
MERE MILES AWAY:



YOUR MOST HOLI-  
NESS, THE MATRIARCH!  
I FEAR I MUST REPORT  
THAT THE INFIDEL, ADAM  
WARLOCK, HAS BEEN  
SIGHTED APPROACHING  
THE SACRED PALACE!

REALLY!

THESE ARE  
INDEED GLAD  
TIDINGS YOU  
BRING THIS  
DAY, PIOUS!  
I WAS  
AFRAID  
WE'D LOST  
DEAR ADAM!



I NEARLY MADE A SERIOUS  
MISTAKE EARLIER, TRYING TO  
HAVE WARLOCK KILLED! THAT  
MIGHT HAVE RUINED EVERYTHING!

FOR, IN WAYS NOT EVEN I UNDER-  
STAND, ALL THAT WE ARE AND ALL  
WE POSSESS DEPEND ON THIS  
STRANGE MAN!



IT'S FAR BETTER THAT HE  
LIVES TO SERVE ME THAN  
DIES AND DESTROYS ALL  
THAT I'VE BECOME!



SO BELIEVE ME  
WHEN I SAY... THAT  
IF ADAM WARLOCK  
IS FOOLISH  
ENOUGH TO COME  
TO THIS PALACE...

... HE'LL LEAVE  
HERE MY  
SLAVE!



MEANWHILE, DOWN A NEARBY MAZE OF BACK-ALLEYWAYS, A MAJOR DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED!

THIS IS AS SECURED A PLACE AS ANY WE'LL FIND.

ONCE AGAIN, PIP, I ASK YOU TO LEAVE ME! WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO MAY BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS!

FORGET IT! THAT GEM WON'T BOTHER ME!

IT'D CHOKE ON MY SOUL!

VERY WELL!

THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO REMOVE THIS GEM-- THOUGH I'VE WORN IT SO LONG, IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE A PART OF ME!

IS THAT WHY MY FINGERS TREMBLE...

...AND A FEELING OF DOOM HANGS OVER ME?

I SHALL...

**URNX!**

YET, I AM MASTER OF THIS GEM!

**PAIN!! EMPTINESS!!**  
IT FLOWS FROM ME... ALL THAT I WAS... AM... EVER WILL BE... **GONE!**

**GONE!**

**GONE!**

ADAM, WHAT'S WRONG?

**HOLY BLUE RABIES!**

THE GEM?!  
**SURE!**  
THAT MUST BE IT!

OOOF!

**BOY OH BOY,**  
DID YOU SCARE THE **BLANK** OUT OF ME!

YOU OKAY NOW, **GOLDIE?**

**NO, PIP!**

I'M AFRAID I MAY NEVER BE ALL RIGHT... EVER AGAIN!

**GOT TO PUT IT BACK!**

MY GEM... MY LOVELY GEM...

I HAD LONG SUSPECTED THIS GEM MIGHT CONTAIN SOME TYPE OF ALIEN INTELLIGENCE, BUT I NEVER DREAMED HOW SHREWD IT MIGHT BE!

IT MUST HAVE GUESSED THAT IF I EVER LEARNED OF ITS GASTLY APPETITES, I WOULD DESTROY IT!

SO ALL THE YEARS I'VE WORN THIS GEM, IT'S BEEN SLOWLY AND SUBTLY SUCKING MY SOUL INTO ITSELF...

...UNTIL I AM NOTHING BUT A HOLLOW SHELL, DEPENDANT UPON IT FOR LIFE ITSELF!



SEPARATED FROM THE GEM, I AM LIKE A PUPPET WITH ITS STRINGS CUT!

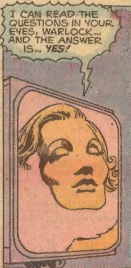
IN OTHER WORDS, THAT GEM HAS BECOME MY LIFEFORCE AND I... ITS PRISONER!



SO... YOU'VE FINALLY DISCOVERED WHAT A MENACE YOU CARRY UPON YOUR BROW?

IT'S ONE OF THE MATRIARCH'S SPY SCANNERS!

LOOK! IT'S OLD 'SLINK' HERSELF!



I CAN READ THE QUESTIONS IN YOUR EYES, WARLOCK... AND THE ANSWER IS... YES!



YES, I KNEW YOUR SOUL GEM WOULD BECOME A MENACE EVEN BEFORE YOU REALIZED IT!

AS FOR HOW I KNEW...



...YOU'LL HAVE TO COME TO THE SACRED PALACE TO LEARN THAT SECRET!

SO UNTIL THEN...



STUFF IT, SLINK!

WHAT DOES SHE THINK WE ARE? IDIOTS?

WHAT AN OBVIOUS TRAP!

YES, OBVIOUS...



TRUE, THE BAIT WAS QUITE TEMPTING, BUT...

SAY, HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE LEARNED ABOUT YOUR GEM?

I'VE NO IDEA!



WELL, WE'LL FIND OUT, BUT NOT BY WALKING INTO A DEATH TRAP!

RIGHT, ADAM?

ADAM?!



I HATED TO DESERT  
PIP IN SUCH A  
MANNER, BUT IT'S  
BEST THAT ONLY I  
FACE WHAT LIES  
AHEAD!

AFTER  
ALL, AM I  
NOT TO  
BLAME FOR  
ALL THE WRONG  
THAT HAS BEEN  
DONE? SO  
SHOULD NOT  
THE DANGER  
BE MINE  
ALONE?

IT'S MY  
SPIRIT THAT'S  
SUFFERING  
FROM A  
COSMIC DUAL  
PERSONALITY,  
THUS CREATING  
THE MAGUS!

IT'S MY  
RESPONSIBILITY  
TO FIND THE  
CURE!

BUT BEFORE  
ANYONE CAN CURE  
ANY DISEASE ONE  
MUST LEARN ITS  
CAUSE!

THOUGH I SUSPECT  
THAT THE MAGUS MIGHT  
BE ANOTHER CRUEL JEST  
ON THE PART OF MY  
SOUL GEN, I DARE NOT  
TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST  
IT UNTIL I'M SURE!

I'M LIKE A MAN TRYING  
TO ASSEMBLE AN  
UNKNOWN PIECE OF  
MACHINERY IN THE DARK!

ONE WRONG MOVE ON  
MY PART MIGHT DESTROY  
ALL THE CAREFULLY  
BALANCED MECHANICS  
OF TIME AND SPACE...

FOR I'M DEALING WITH  
THE HIGHLY DANGEROUS  
PROBLEM OF HAVING TWO  
IDENTICAL BEINGS LIVING  
IN THE SAME POINT OF  
WHEN AND WHERE!

MY ONLY HOPE IS THAT  
THE MATRIARCH MAY  
TRULY POSSESS SOME OF  
THE KNOWLEDGE I SEEK,  
FOR I NOW REALIZE THAT  
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO  
DEFEAT MY ENEMY IN A  
FRONTAL CONFRONTATION!

EVEN THOUGH WE MAY  
BE TWINS OF THE INNER  
SELF, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT  
THE MAGUS' PERSONAL  
STRENGTH FAR SURPASSES  
MY OWN!

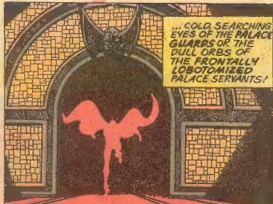
THAT POWER,  
AUGMENTED BY A  
MILITARY FORCE OF  
THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH  
MAKES THE MAGUS A  
NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE  
FOE TO STOP!

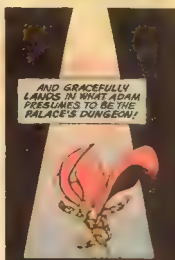
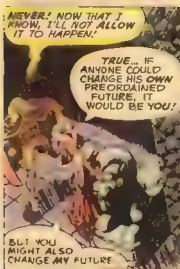
YET STOP HIM  
I MUST!

FOR IF I  
FAIL, ALL  
LIFE FALLS  
WITH ME!

I'M SURE MY  
OTHER SELF  
WILL NEVER BE  
SATISFIED WITH  
ANYTHING LESS  
THAN TOTAL  
DOMINATION  
OVER ALL  
LIVING THINGS  
THROUGHOUT  
ALL SPACE...

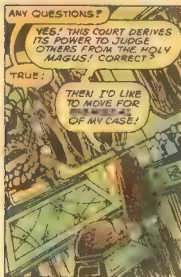
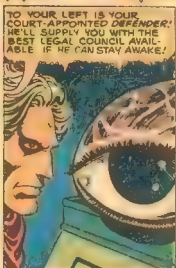
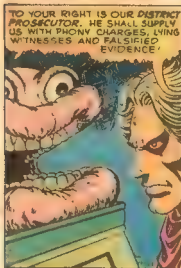
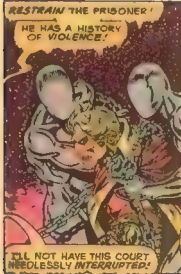
...FOR, WOULD  
I DESIRE  
ANYTHING LESS  
IF I CHOSE  
HIS PATH?



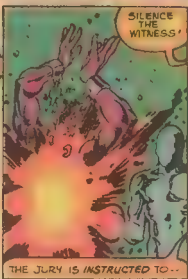


**...WARLOCK DROPS THROUGH THE HIDDEN TRAP DOOR...**

**...THEN, ABRUPTLY, THERE IS LIGHT!**







**SLOWLY THE TRIAL PROCEEDS: A STEADY FLOW OF EXPERTLY COACHED WITNESSES NOW UNERRINGLY POINT OUT WARLOCK AS THE PERPETRATOR OF A DOZEN FALSE CRIMES!**

THIS COURT!

ITS LAWS!

ITS ETHICS!

ITS OFFICERS!

BUT MOSTLY ITS **JUDGE!**

THE PRISONER HAS BEEN WARNED REPEATEDLY TO REMAIN QUIET!

BAILIFFS, GAG HIM!

**YOUR HONOR!** THE PROSECUTION NOW FEELS THAT WITH A LITTLE **EDITING**, THIS FILMED VERSION OF THE COURT'S PROCEEDINGS CAN BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC, SO THE MYTH OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH'S **JUDICIAL FAIRNESS** MAY BE PRESERVED!

THE CHURCH RESTS ITS CASE AND ASKS THIS COURT TO FIND THE DEFENDANT GUILTY!

GUILTY!

**GUILTY!**

DOES THE DEFENSE  
HAVE ITS CLOSING  
STATEMENT READY AT  
THIS TIME?

THE TIME HAS COME TO DETERMINE YOUR GUILT OR INNOCENCE, INFIDEL!

JURY, MAKE YOUR DECISION!

MEANWHILE, AT A NEARBY TAVERN FOR IN-PORT SPACERS.

BLAST THAT WARLOCK'S EYES, EARS, AND ANY OTHER ORGA'. HE MIGHT HAVE USE FOR

I'VE BEEN DESERTE



HERE I LEAD HIM TO THIS JUNKHEAD PLANET FOR SOME EXCITEMENT BUT AS SOON AS THINGS BEGIN TO GET INTERESTIN' I GET LEFT BEHIND.

BARKEEP! ONE MEROE STINGER-- HEAVY ON THE STING!



WELL, I REFUSE TO LET THIS RUIN MY STAY HERE ON HOME-WORLD. BIRTHPLACE OF THE ONE TRUE REL GON'. MIGHT AS WELL DESECRATE ONE OF ITS TEMPLES WHILE I'M HERE.

THAT'LL BE FUN!



HEY YOU! TROLL? YOUR NAME PIP, BY ANY CHANCE?

WHAT'S IT TO YOU?

PLENTY! ALL THE CHURCH RADIO BANDS HAVE GOT AN 'ALL POINTS' OUT ON YOU...



AND YOU PLAN TO TURN ME IN FOR THE REWARD?

KEEP YOUR HANDS ON THE BAR, MAGGOT. 'LESS YOU WANT THIS IN YOUR GUT!

BUT JUST TO SET YOUR MIND AT EASE, I'M NOT LOOKING TO COLLECT THE BOUNTY ON YOU!



IN FACT, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOU AT ALL, FLEA BAG!

I'M SEEKING YOUR FRIEND, ADAM WARLOCK!

WELL, I'M AFRAID YOU'RE A BIT TOO LATE, SISTER! WE'VE PARTED COMPANY!



HE RAN OFF TO THE SACRED PALACE AND LEFT ME BEHIND!

FOR ALL I KNOW, HE MIGHT BE DEAD BY NOW!

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR HIM, ANYWAY?



I'VE COME TO SEE IF THIS WARLOCK REALLY HAS A CHANCE OF DEFEATING THE MAGUS!



IF HE DOES, I PLAN TO JOIN HIM!

IF HE DOESNT, I PLAN TO KILL ADAM WARLOCK!

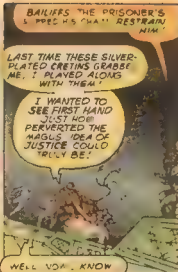


ADAM WARLOCK,  
YOU HAVE BEEN  
FOUND GUILTY.

AND ARE  
HEREBY  
SENTENCED TO  
A CHURCH HOUSE  
OF CORRECTION!



'HOUSE OF CORRECTION'?  
MORE LIKE A BRAINWASHING  
CENTER, SO SAY!



BAILIFFS 'THE PRISONER'S  
& PEERS' SHALL RESTRAIN  
HIM!

LAST TIME THESE SILVER-  
PLATED CRETINS GRABBED  
ME, I PLAYED ALONG  
WITH THEM!

I WANTED TO  
SEE FIRST HAND  
JUST HOW  
PERVERTED THE  
MAGUS' IDEA OF  
JUSTICE COULD  
TRULY BE!

WELL YOU KNOW



...SO THESE COLD AND HEARTLESS  
ENFORCERS OF YOUR LAW CAN  
MEET THE FATE

THEY SO RICHLY  
DESERVED THE  
FIRST TIME THEY  
HANDLED ME AND  
BEAT ME!



I MIGHT ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY  
TO EXPRESS THE CONTEMPT I FEEL.

TOWARD THIS MINDLESS  
AND HEARTLESS JURY  
OF MY PEERS' AND THE  
REST OF THESE  
PROCEEDINGS!



# A CACOPHONOUS COLLECTION OF CAPTIVATING CAPSULE COMMENTS CALCULATED TO CORRAL YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS!

## STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

This is it! The recognition we've all been waiting for! You've read movie reviews, book reviews, record reviews, right? Well, now at last, the nation's top literary critics have begun reviewing comics— or, at least, a book about Marvel Comics! I know you're as anxious to read their verdict as I was, so without any further ado, here's the first batch of notices for the ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS--

Ray Bradbury, in the LOS ANGELES TIMES: "Stan Lee's new volume is the very stuff for you. It is, as he puts it, 'a pictorial tonic to relieve the awesome affliction that threatens us all: the endlessly spreading virus of too much reality in a world that is losing its heroes.' Stan's book is to me a better light bulb. Frivolous? Perhaps. Frightening? Sometimes. With hidden meanings. Stan Lee's comics are better than Lichtenstein can ever hope to be." THE DAILY ENTERPRISE-SUN: "Comicbook heroes are making a comeback. Nowhere is that comeback put together so attractively as in this winner by Stan Lee. It's the best of the comic collections." SAN

FRANCISCO EXAMINER: "The name Stan Lee is known to millions of comic-book fans all over the world. Marvel Comics sell in dozens of countries at a rate of 75 million a year." PLAYBOY: "Very much fun. People have written graduate papers on just such themes, and for them— and all other true believers— we're heading for the newsstand." CUE: "These are fairy tales for older people. They are fun, like Vonnegut and Tolkien. The last place where you can recapture the fantasy— the wonder—" BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB NEWS: "A snappy new book. One of the good things about Lee's ORIGINS is that for each hero discussed he reproduces the subject's first adventure story along with a more recent episode." WOMAN'S WEAR DAILY: "Lee— might almost be a movie director using the storyboard approach." FAMILY WEEKLY: "Stan Lee is in 'big time' publishing." THE PITT NEWS: "This work—is integral to the development of each of the fictional characters created by Marvel. It is a genealogy, a bible. The greatest criticism of the book is that it is not enough." BERGEN COUNTY RECORD "ORIGINS holds

one's interest— Lee's writing is as colorful as the book's reprints of historic back issues. What also holds the reader is its recounting of the feeling that went into the creation of the superheroes." THE RUTGERS DAILY TARGUM: "The one you've been waiting for. The one book you can't afford to miss!" PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN: "Stan Lee, guiding genius of 'Marvelmania' in comic books, has included some gloriously marvel-maniacal comics in this sampler. Even adults, especially gallerygoers, should enjoy the artistry of Marvel Comics books; far and away the leaders in their field." CHICAGO NEWS: "True believers, step right up!"

And that's only a sample of the hundreds that are pouring in! Who says comics aren't an idea whose time has come? Who says your blushing Bulpen hasn't achieved the year's most stupendous literary breakthrough? Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Comics? And before some wiseguy shouts "I say!", I'm cuttin' out— It's time to take a troll to tea!

Excelsior!

*Stan*

ITEM! What's that, Tigers? You say you've been silently scanning those litting letters pages you've become so avariciously addicted to while reading our titanic titles to these many Marvelous years, and you've yet to find the startling new MARVEL VALUE STAMPS we've been promising to toss at ya for the past few months? Well, don't fret, Fearless Ones, your eagle eyes aren't failing you—it's just that the ever-unpredictable inmates of your batty Marvel Bulpen have decided to go all out as usual in their quest to provide the most royally rapturous recreation possible for True Believers everywhere. When the now-legendary SECOND SERIES of MVStamps finally assails your wide-open orbs in just a few short weeks, they will stun you, they will shock you, they will leave you utterly speechless—for in all your years as madcap Marvelites, you will never in your memory have seen the like of what we have in store for you! And remember, even though the concept is so daringly different, you'll still be able to treat yourself to the same glamorous goodies and more when all one hundred startling stamps are at last in your pulse-pounding possession! Truth to tell, we wouldn't do all this if we didn't love ya!

ITEM! Everyone here has heard the name DAMON RUNYON. He's the scintillating author whose singular view of the screwy city called New York has delighted the hearts of millions everywhere, and birthed such world-renowned productions as "Guys and

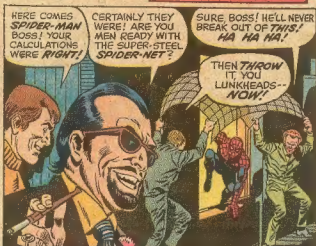
Dolls" and "Pocketful of Miracles." A genius, right? So, who'd ever have thought that TONY (The Tiger) ISABELLA, bare-faced youth from Cleveland, would someday move to Fun City and directly into the penthouse apartment once owned by the illustrious Mr. Runyon himself. We won't say that this startling fact has had any sort of adverse effect on the Tigerish One, but we've noticed a disturbing tendency for names like "Sky Masterson" and "Apple Annie" to pop up in Tony's scripts of late. A subtle influence—or perhaps more? (Wow, what a strange idea—the GHOST RIDER scripted by a ghost writer!)

ITEM! Hey, hope you're one of the lucky ones who's been latching onto the minor masterpieces Judo JIM STARLIN has been turning out every sixty days on the all-new, all-improved WARLOCK strip. As far as we can tell, STRANGE TALES fanatics everywhere are flipping their collective corks over the spectacular Mr. Stalin's dynamic drawings (not to mention his sizzling scripting and capricious coloring). In fact, the only discouraging words we've heard at all thus far have come from a gregarious grey gargoyle called The Golem—and we suspect that he might be just a wee bit prejudiced! Also, let's not forget Dynamic DAVE COCKRUM, whose fan dream of a lifetime came true when he was chosen to illustrate the equally-all-new, equally-all-improved adventures of the X-crociotingly X-citing X-MEN, who are currently cavoring in their brand-new GIANT-SIZE mag!

Who says this ain't the Marvel Age of Sensational Second Chances?

ITEM! And just so you don't think we're sitting on our slightly-wilted laurels, we're gonna let you in on a few searing secrets! Listen closely now... we're gonna whisper 'cause we don't want the competition to hear the names of our newest stars! They'll be popping up in their own spanking-new features in the next few months—and we want you to be prepared for 'em! So look out for BLOODSTONE—he stalks the shadowed lands WHERE MONSTERS DWELL! And the sinister SCARECROW will be waiting for you in the DEAD OF NIGHT! The mind-boggling MODRED THE MYSTIC will be battling arcane forces in the back of GIANT-SIZE WEREWOLF! And lastly, prepare yourself for the coming of SKULL THE SLAYER, a character with a story-line so powerful, we haven't decided where we're gonna present it just yet. Hang in there, Pilgrim—the best is yet to come. (And if you have a few paltry shekles left over, you might want to pick up the first pulse-pounding issue of a little item called GIANT-SIZE INVADERS! It features the all-new adventures of CAPTAIN AMERICA and BUCKY, the savage SUB-MARINER, and the Original HUMAN TORCH and TORO, fighting for freedom in the torrid early days of World War Two! It's a concept so off-beat, you're just gonna have to love it!) And on that note, we return you to your regularly-scheduled Marvel mag...

# SPIDER-MAN in THE TRAP



ALL HAIL THE  
MAGUS!

UP TO NOW I HAVE BEEN LOST!

KRAY-TOR,  
I THANK YOU!

THE ONE  
TRUE  
GOD!

BUT YOU'VE JUST  
SHOWN ME THE WAY!

UNTIL MEETING YOU, I FEARED  
THAT I MIGHT BE INTERFERING  
WITH THOSE THINGS THAT ONLY  
THE DARK FORCES OF CHAOS  
AND ORDER SHOULD MEDDLE  
WITH!

INDEED, AT TIMES  
I'VE EVEN CONSIDERED  
FLEEING AND LEAVING  
MY OTHER SELF, THE  
MAGUS, TO HIS  
MISCHIEF!

ONLY NOW, UPON DISCOVERING  
YOU, DO I REALIZE THAT THIS  
ACCURSED GEM UPON MY BROW  
WAS SENT TO ME BY SOME  
POWER, BEYOND MY COMPRE-  
HENSION, FOR A PURPOSE!

THAT PURPOSE...  
TO DESTROY  
EVIL SUCH AS  
YOURSELF!

YES, I NOW REALIZE THAT YOUR  
KIND ARE THE ULTIMATE IN  
VILENESS, FOR YOU CLOAK YOUR  
SINS IN PIOUS WORDS AND HOLY  
VESTMENTS, JUDGING ALL BUT  
YOURSELVES!

SO MAY WHAT-  
EVER GODS BE FOR-  
GIVE ME, FOR THIS  
DAY I JOIN YOUR  
RANKS...

"NO! DO NOT FIGHT ME THIS TIME!"

"YES, RELEASE ME! IT WILL BE GOOD!"

"YES, SO GOOD!"

NO!

A FLAMING EMERALD BEAM FLASHES FROM THE  
SINISTER SOUL GEM AND KRAY-TOR'S SOUL IS  
WRENCHED FROM HIS BODY, AND FLOWS INTO  
THE FRENZIED ADAM WARLOCK!

"MEMORIES, IMAGES,  
THOUGHTS LIKE NONE I'VE  
EVER TASTED!

"DELICIOUS!"

